

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-10 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 SIL-01 SWF-01 OMB-01

L-02 /084 R

DRAFTED BY LABOR: DAVERY

APPROVED BY EUR/RPE:MHLEVINE

EUR - DGOOTT (INFO)

----- 117982

P 192248Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 278366

PASS TO CHARLES STEWART FROM AVERY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, US, OECD

SUBJECT: PENDING US LEGISLATION ON EMERGENCY JOBS AND
UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

1. PENDING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZES ONE YEAR EMERGENCY
PROGRAMS DESIGNED ASSIST UNEMPLOYED WORKERS MOST IN NEED.
FIRST, ADDITIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PAYMENTS WOULD
BE AVAILABLE TO UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WHO HAVE EXHAUSTED
THEIR BENEFITS. SECOND, EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION-TYPE PROGRAM WOULD BE SET UP FOR PERSONS NOT
ELIGIBLE FOR REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION. THIRD,
ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS WOULD BE
OFFERED TO STATE AND LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT. ALL ABOVE
PROGRAMS WOULD BE ADMINISTERED BY LABOR DEPARTMENT.
PENDING LEGISLATION WOULD ALSO CREATE PROGRAM OF JOB
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OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS, ADMINISTERED BY COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

A. EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION CLAIMANTS

COVERED UNDER STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAWS WHO

HAVE EXHAUSTED SUCH BENEFITS WOULD BE ENTITLED TO EXTENDED BENEFITS OF 50 OF THEIR REGULAR BENEFITS. FOR MOST WORKERS THIS MEANS THAT AS MUCH AS 13 MORE WEEKS OF BENEFITS WOULD BE ADDED TO THEIR REGULAR BENEFITS WHICH NOW GENERALLY LAST UP TO 26 WEEKS MAKING A TOTAL OF 39 WEEKS. IN ADDITION, WHEN UNEMPLOYMENT HAS REACHED AN INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 4 IN EITHER US AS A WHOLE OR IN AN INDIVIDUAL STATE UP TO 13 MORE WEEKS WOULD BE ADDED, MAKING A TOTAL OF UP TO 52 WEEKS OF BENEFITS FOR UNEMPLOYED WORKER. DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1975 THIS WILL MEAN EXPECTED ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS OF APPROXIMATELY \$1 BILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS TO 1.5 MILLION INDIVIDUALS.

B. WORKERS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

FOR FIRST TIME, UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION-TYPE PAYMENTS, CALLED "SPECIAL UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE" WOULD BE MADE TO UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WHO HAVE NO RIGHTS TO REGULAR STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS. BENEFITS WOULD BE PAID TO ALL SUCH WORKERS WHEN NATIONAL TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS 6.0 AND TO SUCH WORKERS IN LOCAL AREAS IF THE AREA RATE IS 6.5.

PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARIES WOULD BE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS AMONG THE 12 MILLION PERSONS WHOSE PRINCIPAL WORK HAD BEEN IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AGRICULTURE, DOMESTIC SERVICE AND FOR VERY SMALL EMPLOYERS. THEY WOULD BE PAID ASSISTANCE BASED ON STATE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FORMULAS, AS IF ENTIRE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE PAST 52 WEEKS HAD BEEN IN COVERED EMPLOYMENT IN STATE. SUCH WORKERS WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS FOR UP TO 26 WEEKS.

APPROXIMATELY \$2.5 BILLION ARE EXPECTED TO BE PAID TO MORE THAN 3 MILLION SUCH WORKERS UNDER THIS PROGRAM IN 1975.

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C. PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS

THE PENDING LEGISLATION WOULD AUTHORIZE A MAXIMUM OF

\$2.5 BILLION TO HIRE UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN JOBS TO PROVIDE NEEDED PUBLIC SERVICES SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, EDUCATION, RECREATION, POLLUTION CONTROL, CONSERVATION, AND OTHER AREAS OF COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT.

PREFERENCE IN HIRING WOULD BE GIVEN TO WORKERS WHO HAD
EXHAUSTED ALL UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS AND THOSE
REQUESTED CONGRESS IMMEDIATELY APPROPRIATE \$1 BILLION FOR
THESE PROGRAMS, WHICH WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STATE

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AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ADMINISTERING MANPOWER PROGRAMS
UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT.
FUNDS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED ON THE BASIS OF EACH
JURISDICTION'S NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED, WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS
GOING TO AREAS WITH PARTICULARLY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

D. JOB OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

ALSO IN THE PENDING LEGISLATION IS PROGRAM OF JOB
OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS. A TOTAL OF \$500 MILLION IS AUTHORIZED FOR THE
PROGRAM, WITH \$250 MILLION OF THIS AMOUNT TO BE USED FOR
LABOR-INTENSIVE PROJECTS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE278366
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DAVERY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740370-0089
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741221/aaaaarub.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN LAB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 OCT 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PENDING US LEGISLATION ON EMERGENCY JOBS AND UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
TAGS: ELAB, US, OECD
To: OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005